

In addition to holding a Master of Social Work from Wayne State University and a bachelor's degree in Education & Social Work from Western Michigan University, Ms. Watson completed the United Way of America/Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family Strengthening for Success Fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2002. Ms. Watson's experience in academia also includes serving as a university faculty member for undergraduate and graduate students of Social Work while residing in Tennessee.

During three decades of leadership experience in the nonprofit sector, Ms. Watson served two Urban League affiliates located in Nashville, Tennessee and the San Francisco Bay Area. In her Urban League roles, she managed job development, led training programs and coordinated job fairs serving thousands of job seekers. Over the years, she has helped over 7,000 job seekers in securing employment opportunities with roughly 100 employers.

In her most recent role as UWBA's Chief Community Investment Officer, Ms. Watson managed grants, programs, volunteers, marketing strategies, donor cultivation, collaborative fundraising, fund distribution and community building across seven Bay Area counties.

As a member of UWBA's senior management team for the last 10 years, Ms. Watson has been known as a fearless and effective leader and mentor. She managed a \$6 million portfolio with a Community Investment Team and Community Project staff, comprising over 20 members. And in 2002, she was voted the esteemed UWBA Percy C. Moore Employee of the Year by her colleagues.

The recipient of numerous honors and accolades, Ms. Watson received the National Philanthropy Day Foundation Professional Award co-sponsored by the Northern California Grant Makers and Association of Fund Raising Executives in 2006. She was also recognized as the 2006 San Francisco Boy Scouts of America's Whitney M. Young Community Leader.

Ms. Watson's dedication to improving the lives of children, youth and families through economic development is evident from her countless community affiliations and activities. Whether serving as a liaison to the United Way World Wide Income Advisory Group, creating the Earn It! Keep It! Save It! Campaign, EKS, to provide free tax preparation for eligible EITC tax filers, or serving as Board President of the Oakland Emiliano Zapata Street Academy, Ms. Watson has donated her time to lead bold initiatives for the benefit of her community. She has truly created pathways out of poverty.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, Ms. Carole M. Watson, I salute you for three decades of outstanding service in assisting families to achieve financial stability and secure future success. I congratulate and thank you for your unparalleled service to our community. You have touched many lives in profound ways throughout your career, and we wish you and your family continued prosperity and happiness as you transition to this exciting new chapter of life.

#### A TRIBUTE TO FELICIA LEMONS

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Felicia Lemons.

Felicia Lemons is a Human Rights Specialist for the New York City Commission on Human rights. She spent her formative years growing up in Linden Plaza, Brooklyn, New York. Her family then moved to Cambria Heights, Queens where she expanded upon the value of family and love of community. Both her parents, Hank and Sadie Lemons emphasized the importance of education, social justice and helping one's neighbor.

During a bible study meeting at the House of the Lord Church in Brooklyn, the Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry approached Felicia with an opportunity to work in his outreach ministry. He recruited her to advocate for formerly incarcerated women, as well as minister the gospel of Jesus Christ to the community at large. While under the mentorship of Pastor Daughtry, she trained in all matters of social justice, gender discrimination and serviced the "least of these" in the neighborhood.

Also while in training, Felicia attended Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus. Felicia was on the Dean's List for seven consecutive semesters and is a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society. Graduating Magna Cum Laude, she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree.

From Long Island University under the advice of Pastor Daughtry and Rev. Dr. Syl Shannon, National Convention Chaplain for Alpha Phi Alpha, Felicia pursued a Masters in Divinity Degree from Duke University. While working on her Masters, she served marginalized communities as a volunteer for Center for community Help in Durham, North Carolina.

Felicia returned to New York to work for Commissioner Patricia Gatling at the NYC Commission on Human Rights. Serving as a Human Rights Specialist, she directs her talent and passion to educated and advocate for people transitioning back into the community from prison. In doing so, she works closely with organizations such as Alpha School Project in Brooklyn, Women's Prison Association, Young Women's Leadership program of August Martin High School, New York State Division of Parole, as well as Community Liaison for the Commission on Human Rights. From this work, she has coauthored "Turning the Game Around," a comprehensive resource guide to Employment discrimination under the Human Rights Law for returning citizens of incarceration who desire to have a successful transition in New York City. Felicia continues to persist in her work. She believes to leave one person behind of a million under her watch, is to lose the battle at large.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mrs. Lemons for her extraordinary accomplishments and her spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

#### REINTRODUCTION OF THE HURRICANE RESEARCH INITIATIVE ACT OF 2011

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, June first marked the official start of the 2011 hurricane season. As we prepare for this upcoming season, I am proud to reintroduce the Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2011.

I cannot help but recall the devastation left in the wake of hurricanes that have hit my

home State of Florida, such as Andrew, Ivan, Jeanne, and Katrina. These storms were some of the worst any of us had ever seen. We can all remember the haunting images of our coastal communities from Florida to Louisiana left in utter destruction. It is easy to picture the faces of those who were most affected, and to remember the stories told by survivors. Even today, the impact of these disasters are still being felt in many communities along the Gulf Coast region.

The damage from these storms affects us all. Hurricane damage has cost our Nation an average of \$35.8 billion in economic losses per year since 2001. Between 2002 and 2007, we experienced over \$180 billion in losses due to hurricanes.

As a nation, we have been caught off-guard by these storms. In the past, we were not ready for the destructive forces that came our way. We could not anticipate the extent to which these storms would change our coastal towns and cities. In short, we were unprepared.

Looking back, it is easy to see why. In recent years, we have allowed hurricane research to lapse. It is a failure that must be addressed. Every year, we pay the price in environmental damage, fiscal devastation, and human lives.

More research must be done on these storm systems. Therefore, I am proud to reintroduce the Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2011, which authorizes critical hurricane research funding to help our scientists study and better understand how hurricanes form and intensify, research that will help us prepare for many hurricane seasons to come.

The legislation also provides for enhancing early warning systems, infrastructure durability standards, and severe weather tracking and prediction capabilities. A National Infrastructure Database will be established under this legislation in order to develop standards and create public policy to better understand hurricanes and tropical storms.

This version of the bill also restores funding to perform a necessary update to our Nation's Joint Polar Satellite System, funds that were cut in the Republican budget for Fiscal Year 2011. The Continuing Resolution eliminated the means to perform this necessary update. Satellites are designed with a limited lifespan. When the end of that lifespan is reached, our ability to track severe weather systems such as hurricanes and blizzards also ends. By restoring funding for the JPSS, this bill ensures the continuation of our ability to forecast and track severe weather systems before they happen.

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to close the gap in hurricane research funding. Correcting this lack of scientific research is imperative and will help us to preserve our environment, protect our property, and save lives. I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.